

**Support Raised Bill 6599
An Act Concerning Discrimination**

March 21, 2011

To: Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Frank O'Gorman
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Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Imagine yourself being evicted from your apartment. You're being evicted not because you damaged the property or created a noise disturbance or refused to pay rent. No, you're being evicted solely because the landlord doesn't like the way you express your gender.

This eviction threat was directed against my roommate about 10 years ago. As his family lived out of state, he had to confront the possibility that he might end up homeless. No one should have to live under this fear simply for being oneself.

Now imagine that you are a dedicated, hard-working employee. Your employer thinks highly of you and your performance appraisals are excellent. You wholeheartedly wish to transition to your inherent gender identity but you must live with a big uncertainty: What if your boss dislikes the way you express your inherent gender and fires you? Your job puts a roof over your head, food in your stomach and supports your family. What do you do?

Several of my friends have found themselves in this predicament in the past and one of my friends is currently facing this situation today. No one should have to choose between being oneself and being employed.

So I urge you to support the bill before you today, An Act Concerning Discrimination.

This bill is about supporting good, decent people -- indeed some of the finest people you will ever meet -- who live honest, upright, authentic lives and who just want a job and a place to live without fear of being fired or evicted. It's that simple.

This bill is about defending people who live with personal integrity and who just want to be treated with respect. It's about protecting them from discrimination. It's really that simple.

One of the greatest lessons every parent teaches their child is: Be true to yourself and be proud of who you are. This bill affords parents the security that their beautiful gender-variant child will have the full protections against discrimination afforded by the State of Connecticut.

I thank you in advance for your support of this bill.